



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FEDERAL JUDGE SENTENCES PRESIDIO MAN TO 25 YEARS**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that 32 year-old Jose Luis Orona-Castillo, of Presidio, Texas, a mid level facilitator for the Crispin Humberto Borunda-Cardenas drug smuggling organization out of Ojinaga, Mexico, was sentenced to three hundred months imprisonment by Senior U.S. District Judge Harry Lee Hudspeth.

At trial, the government showed that from November 2003 to April 2004, Orona was responsible for setting up and scouting the routes used to transport large loads of marihuana. In one particular load Orona had a juvenile drive a Suburban loaded with over approximately 2,700 kilograms of marihuana. However, the juvenile crashed the Suburban on FM 170 "River Road" just northwest of Presidio, Texas, on December 6, 2003.

The defendant would recruit driver's and then show them the route to take the marihuana in order to get it past the U.S. Border Patrol checkpoints on Highway 67, 118, and 385 in Presidio and Brewster counties. At trial, the government showed that the total amount of marihuana that was contributed to Orona-Castillo was slightly under 3,000 kilograms during this time period.

The case was tried before U.S. District Judge Robert Junell on August 18 and 19, 2004 and the defendant was convicted on all five counts of possession with intent to distribute marihuana and the use of a juvenile to transport marihuana. The drivers recruited by the defendant all testified in the case against the defendant.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, (Alpine), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (Presidio and Alpine), U.S. Border Patrol of the Marfa Sector, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, Presidio County Sheriff's Office and the Marfa Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney James J. Miller, Jr. prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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